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Integrated Network Management VII

Integrated Management Strategies for the New Millennium

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Preface

At the dawn of the new millennium, the ubiquitous explosion of the Internet and the fast proliferation of networked devices and business applications create a unique challenge for the network management community. Innovative solutions are required for managing the sheer numbers of devices and the complexity of applications. Further, new ways of strategic thinking must be incorporated in future management products and services to ensure a smooth transition to the new networked society. Management in this new information era will need to support the integration of data and telecommunications networks, from narrowband to broadband, terrestrial to satellite, fixed to mobile, and uni-media to multimedia.

Twelve years have passed since the first International Symposium on Integrated Network Management was held in Boston, Massachusetts. During this time we have witnessed a tremendous transformation in the area of network management. Several protocols and architectures have emerged. Some have evolved, others have been forgotten. Controversial subjects have also changed over the years. The protocol wars between OSI and SNMP in the early 90's have been replaced by debates on Web-based management, directory services and Java in the late 90's. Management platforms have also evolved from the traditional client/server paradigm for manipulating low level information, to fully integrated and distributed packages with advanced graphics and data mining capabilities. The theme for IM 2001 is "Integrated Management Strategies for the New Millennium".

One of the main objectives of this technical program is to help the participants further develop their strategic thinking by combining new ideas with documented knowledge from past experiences. We have put together a strong technical program with a wide range of tutorials, technical sessions and panels. We introduced sessions to cover new areas of interest such as IP management, cellular network management, active and programmable network management, mobile code, and pricing. At the same time, the program accommodates continuing strong interest in popular topics: event and fault management, service and SLA management, virtual private network management, SNMP, CORBA, etc. In addition, we included a session on open source management software to accommodate the voice of a community that has not previously participated in the technical program.

The technical program has been assembled from the best of over 150 paper submissions from 24 countries, of which we accepted 51 technical papers and three open source papers. Every paper was reviewed by at least three and usually four international experts and then assessed by the program committee. The poster presentations complement the technical sessions in presenting the latest ideas and methodologies.

We would like to express our gratitude to the authors of the technical papers and posters, without whom this symposium would not have been possible. The program committee and reviewers worked very hard in reviewing papers and providing detailed suggestions for improvements. The result is a high quality set of technical papers that will be a prime source of reference material on integrated management for years to come. We would also like to thank a number of other people: Gautam Kar for organizing the technical program committee meeting; the organizing committee chair Wolfgang Zimmer and the organizing committee members for their tireless effort in making the symposium a success; Gayle Weisman of IEEE Communications Society for her efforts in managing many aspects of this symposium; and finally Laura Hyslop of IEEE who has worked hard in the production of these proceedings.

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